

RETENTION OF PLACENTA.

D. H., Muskoka, Ont.:—"I have a cow that does not clean when she calves. It rots and comes away in pieces, and she fails in flesh. What would you advise me to do for her?"

[Occasionally cows under varying circumstances fail to expel the afterbirth. The retention is due to an abnormal adhesion between the womb and foetal membranes, or a rapid closing of the mouth of the womb after delivery. Old or poorly-fed cows are considered to be liable to the accident. If the placenta does not come away in eight or ten hours after delivery, the cow should be given the following drench: Epsom salts, 1 lb.; fluid extract of belladonna, 1 dram; and sweet spirits of nitre, 1 oz. Keep the cow comfortably bedded and blanketed, give chilled water to drink, and warm slops. If the membrane has not passed in about 30 hours it should be removed by hand. This is an unpleasant operation, but a very important one, because, when the placenta is not removed, it is absorbed in the system as it decays, to the injury of the cow's health, and it renders her milk unfit for human food. To perform the operation it is necessary to understand something of the structure of the parts, and to exercise caution. During the time of pregnancy, the placenta is attached to the womb by numerous button-like tubercles, called cotyledons. At the time of parturition these adhesions should dissolve, and it is when they do not that retention occurs. So that an important part of the operation of removing the placenta is to loosen with the fingers these attachments. The operator should have an assistant to help him. He should have beside him a pail of clean, warm water, in which has been dissolved a piece of good soap. It is well to remove the shirt or roll the sleeves up to the shoulders. Next oil the right hand and arm and pass it into the womb, while the extending placenta is grasped in the left hand. Draw gently on the membrane with the left hand while the right hand is engaged loosening the attachments. The operation is often a tiresome and tedious one, requiring patience on the part of the operator. There is sometimes advantage in relieving one hand with the other. It is well to mix a few drops of carbolic acid with the oil used to smear the hands and arms. After the operation is completed the womb should be washed out with warm soft water, using a large syringe, after which it should be plentifully injected with water 50 parts and creolin 1 part.

While the above is the proper treatment as given in veterinary books, we may say that we have operated in scores of such cases, and always with complete success, without any medicine or after-treatment, and we would not in any case delay longer than 24 hours before removing the placenta by hand.—Ed. F. A.]

MALIGNANT GROWTH ON COW'S EYELID.

M. C., Peterboro Co., Ont.:—"I have a cow eight years old. She has always been healthy and a good milker. Last September we noticed something like a small wart (about the size of a pea) coming on her left eyelid very near the center of the eye, or close to the edge under lid or winker. It grew slowly at first, but after a while it began to grow rapidly, and looked and smelled bad. I tied a silk thread tightly around it, which cut the ugly lump off (about the size of a small plum). I washed the lid with bluestone water twice a day (a strong solution), but the lump is growing big again, and will soon have her eye closed up. I find no bad smell since I began to use the bluestone water. If you can tell me what this ailment is, and advise me in the matter of a cure, I shall regard it as a great favor."

[This cow has a malignant tumor. The only cure is to carefully dissect it out, being careful to remove all the unhealthy tissue, else it will grow again. If the eye itself has become involved it will have to be removed in order to save the other eye from disease. If the eyeball be not involved, the operator will need to be very careful in dissecting lest he injure or puncture the eye. After the operation, use, as a dressing, a solution of sulphate of zinc, say 10 grains to the ounce of water, in preference to the solution of bluestone. Growths of a malignant nature, such as this is, in any situation are troublesome to treat, but especially in such close proximity to the eye. If you are handy with the knife and used to operations, and not nervous, you may possibly be able to operate yourself, otherwise you had better employ a veterinarian. There is little use in applying any preparation to the growth with the hopes of removing it.

J. H. REED, V. S.]

CONTRACTED TENDON.

B. B. A., Victoria Co., Ont.:—"I have a horse coming two this spring. During the winter the cords in the back of her fore legs have become shrunken, and her fetlocks knuckle over till she can hardly walk. Will you please tell me what is the matter with her, and how she can be cured?"

[Contracted tendons may arise from different causes. Among the most prevalent are soreness in the region of the heels, standing on uneven floors where the front is higher than the back, want of exercise, rheumatism brought on by overfeeding, or allowing the toes to grow too long. Have the colt's hoofs put in a natural shape; see that the toes are not too long; give moderate work, and apply the following liniment along the course of the contracted tendons every night: Nitrate of potash, acetate of lead, oil turpentine and liquor ammonia fort., of each half an ounce; spirits camphor, 4 ounces; tr. cantharides, 2 ounces; water, 1 quart; shake well.]

ENLARGED LEG—WARBLES IN CATTLE.

G. D. Muskoka, Ont.:—"I have a mare 10 years old, which for a few years past has had an enlarged hind leg. It cracks in front of the hock joint about 2 inches long and half inch wide, which bleeds when working sometimes, and heals up altogether, then breaks out again. Leg enlarges when standing in stable, sometimes as large as an ordinary stovepipe down at fetlock joint, and swelling goes up to body. Leg is hot on inside close to body. If fed grain, it gets bigger than usual. What do you advise?"

"2. My cows have lumps on their backs in which after a while there will be worms come out. They had them last year. Is there any cure for them?"

[1. The lymphatic glands of the affected leg are practically ruined by the long standing of the case in question, which renders it impossible to affect a cure. The animal can be helped, however, by a course of physics, tonics, and external applications. Prepare the animal for a physic by feeding exclusively on bran mash for sixteen hours, and then give the following purgative ball: Barbadoes aloes, 7 drams; powdered ginger, 2 drams; syrup or soap, sufficient to form a ball. Continue the bran mash until the physic has ceased to operate. After this give, morning and evening, in food for two weeks: Iodide of potass., and nitrate of potass., of each 1 dram; powdered gentian, 2 drams. Paint the leg once daily for four days with strong tincture of iodine (iodine, 6 drams; iodide of potass., 5 drams; alcohol, 8 ozs.). Allow one week to elapse, and wash the leg thoroughly with warm water and castile soap, and then repeat the application of the tincture of iodine. Repeat this treatment for at least four times, observing the above directions.

2. The lumps on the backs of the cattle are due to the presence of warbles or larva of the ox bot fly. There is still some doubt regarding the life-history of this insect, but it is now generally believed by authorities on entomology that the eggs are laid by the fly on the hair of the animals in the summer season, and are taken into the stomach by the cattle licking themselves. In the stomach the eggs hatch, and from there bore their way upward to the skin. It is therefore difficult to prevent the animals, getting them in sections where the fly abounds. In the late fall or early winter, the larva commences to be apparent on the animals' backs, and at this time repeated applications of grease well rubbed into the backs of the cattle will destroy the grub. The same treatment applied any time before the grubs escape in spring will destroy them. By parting the hair over the enlargement a small opening can be observed. It is through this the grub breathes. The oil or grease closes this opening and smothers the insect. A needle pushed down through this opening will kill the insect.]

CAKED UDDER IN COW.

H. J. W., Cedar Co., Iowa.:—"I have a cow that dropped a calf some few days ago. I was careful to milk her after the calf had sucked, and did so for two or three days after the calf came, when it seemed to take it all, but it did not for some reason take the milk out of one teat. I believe the milk clogged in that one, for the calf sucked it the same as all the rest, but on examining the udder I found this teat, or the quarter of the udder above, very hard and fevered. I can't do much for it. There is just the least bit of watery milk comes from it. The calf sucks it the same as the rest. What do you think can be done for it? Can anything be done for it without drying the milk? She is a good cow. I have been feeding her nitrate of potash in the feed. I had been feeding shocked corn, but am feeding oats and oil meal now."

[The affected quarter is highly inflamed and congested, due to the milk not having been drawn off for an extended period. The treatment should be prompt and energetic in order to save the quarter. Give a purgative of 1½ pounds of Epsom salts, with a ½ ounce of ginger dissolved in warm water. Bathe the quarter twice daily for 30 or 40 minutes with warm water in which the hand can be borne; rub dry and apply belladonna liniment or goose oil well rubbed in. Continue giving nitrate of potash in teaspoonful doses twice a day. Reduce the grain diet to a simple warm bran mash, and give hay in place of corn stover. Milk out the quarter frequently. Keep the cow warm and away from drafts, and take the chill off all the water she drinks.]

SPRAIN OF THE BACK TENDONS.

J. N., Perth Co., Ont.:—"I have a mare about fifteen years old. She went lame last June. If travelled on the hard road, she is worse; it is in the cords of the front leg. Could you tell me what to do for her?"

[The mare is evidently suffering from sprain of the back tendons of the fore leg. Bathe the part well for one hour, twice a day, with cold water in which has been dissolved a few handfuls of salt, rub dry and apply the following liniment: water, half pint, two ounces of spirits of turpentine, one egg, two ounces of spirits of alcohol, two ounces of liquor ammonia, and add enough water to make one quart. In making this liniment, the mixture should be vigorously shaken for four or five minutes after the addition of each ingredient. One hour after applying the liniment, bandage firmly and leave for three hours. Continue this treatment till the lameness is well gone, then blister with cantharides, two drs., well mixed with vaseline or lard. After clipping the hair, rub in well for twenty minutes. Tie the mare's head so that she cannot reach the blistered part with her mouth, and oil on the third day.]

ENLARGED LEG.

W. E. S., Gloucester, N. B.:—"I have a mare five years old which sprained her hind leg while working in the snow this winter. Before she was perfectly well she was put to work again, but after a few days became so lame that work with her could be done no longer. She is now a great deal better in regard to lameness, but the chord of her leg is quite swollen from fetlock to the body, especially near the body on the inside of thigh, where there is a big lump. What treatment should be followed?"

[It is possible that the lump you mention inside of thigh contains pus. If so, it will be sore and will become soft and fluctuating at some point. If this occurs, it must be opened and the pus allowed to escape, and the cavity cleaned out twice daily by injecting into it warm water, after which a little carbolic lotion—1 part carbolic acid to 60 parts water—be injected into it. It is probable it will be hard to remove the enlargement of the limb. Give her a purgative of 1 oz. Barbadoes aloes and 2 drs. ginger. Feed nothing but bran for 10 hours before and 24 hours after giving the purgative. (The purgative can be given either as a ball by moistening with water and rolling in tissue paper, or as a drench shaken up with a pint of cold water.) After the bowels become normal, give her regular, gentle exercise, and rub the enlarged parts well twice daily with the following liniment: Iodide of ammonium, 1 oz.; tincture iodine, 2 oz.; alcohol, 10 oz.; water enough to make a pint. Apply the liniment with smart friction, and continue the treatment. Recovery will probably be slow, but continued application of the liniment will eventually lessen the enlargement and possibly remove it entirely.

J. H. REED, V. S.]

Miscellaneous.

HAULING MANURE INTO LARGE PILES.

RAY C. HOYT, State Maine, U. S. A.:—"Does manure lose any of its value by being moved into the field in large heaps about a month before it is to be spread on the surface? My manure is quite coarse, and I thought handling it would make it in better shape for the harrow."

[In reducing coarse manure to a finer condition by piling it in heaps in the field, a certain amount of decomposition must necessarily take place. During this change, nitrogen, a valuable constituent, is given off in the form of ammonia. This can be partially prevented by an application of gypsum to the surface of the heap, or even a few inches of soil. Would it not be a better plan to turn over six or eight inches of the surface of the manure where it now lies, and tramp it well with stock? In this condition, it would lose practically nothing, while the coarser portion would become reduced without the extra work of hauling to a heap.]

REMEDY FOR OYSTER-SHELL BARK LOUSE—A WORD OF COMMENDATION.

J. M. P., Stormont Co., Ont.:—"Will you or some of your able correspondents give me a remedy for the oyster-shell bark louse? I must say that your paper is getting better every number. I don't see how any farmer can get along without it. It is full of good information."

[During the winter the trees should be washed with a solution of caustic potash, as recommended by Prof. F. C. Sears in the Orchard and Garden Dept. of last issue. In June, when the insects can be seen moving on the limbs, spray with kerosene emulsion, prepared as recommended in the spraying calendar in last issue.]

TRAINING A BULL'S HORNS.

SUBSCRIBER, Waterloo Co., Ont.:—"Will you please let me know whether it is possible to make the horns of a yearling bull grow in a position desired. I have one whose horns grow too far backward. Would scraping help them?"

[Scraping them thin on the front side will probably cause them to incline forward to some extent, but it will be a slow process. To make it quickly effectual a contrivance with a screw, on the principle of that used in tightening a bucksaw, might be adopted. The bull's horns will no doubt come forward satisfactorily, as he grows older, without treatment.]

GEESSE TO ONE GANDER.

J. C., Ridgeville, Man.:—"How many geese ought to be kept for one gander?"

[In Toulouse geese, the gander mates with one goose, and will accompany that goose to the nest while laying, and during setting will sit near and watch and protect it from any threatened danger. It will allow one or two other geese to accompany it, and will serve them, but does not sit with them or protect them. To insure fertile eggs, ganders should be mated with geese several months before laying time, but if there are no other ganders near, he may take to the geese at once.

M. MAW, Winnipeg.]

CURBING A WELL IN QUICKSAND.

In reply to a request of your subscriber as to how to dig a well in quicksand: We had the same difficulty a few years ago. We took a curb 12 feet long and placed it tight in the well so it would sink straight, and sharpened the boards at the bottom, and then we laid bricks on the ring till it had pressure enough. Take pine or hemlock, and be sure to have it waterproof. We are very much pleased with the ADVOCATE.

CONRAD WAGNER.

Waterloo Co., Ont.